

REMARKS

Claims 21-40 remain in the application including independent claim 21. Claims 22, 23, and 30-40 have been withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected species, pending allowance of a generic claim. New dependent claims 41-42 have been added.

The specification has been amended to provide section headings where appropriate. The abstract and specification have been amended in response to the examiner's objections. Finally, the title has been amended to provide a better description of the invention as requested by the examiner. A redlined copy indicating the changes made to the specification, and a clean copy of the specification are being submitted with the present amendment.

Claims 21 and 24-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the examiner has indicated confusion with regard to whether the term "having" is modifying the door panel or the mechanism. The examiner also has objected to the use of "one side" in claim 21 because an associated element has not been identified. Claim 21 has been amended to clarify that the vehicle door panel itself includes a first alignment member formed on one side of the door panel and a second alignment member formed on an opposite side of the door panel. Claim 24 has been amended to clarify that the single contiguous feature defines both the first and second alignment members as set forth in claim 21.

The examiner has also objected to the use of the terms "first alignment member" and "second alignment member" as used in claim 21, specifically expressing confusion as to how a protrusion in a panel can form two different members. By forming a protrusion on the door panel, two different alignment members are formed with one alignment member being positioned on each side of the door panel. The protrusion forms an outwardly extending surface on one side and forms a corresponding recess on an opposite side that is defined by an inwardly extending surface. Thus, one alignment member is the projecting surface and the other alignment member is the recess. Thus, applicant asserts that the use of the terms "first alignment

member” and “second alignment member” is not indefinite and that one of ordinary skill in the art, after reviewing the specification and drawings, would be able to clearly understand the claimed invention. Applicant asserts that all 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, rejections have been fully addressed and respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 21 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito. Claim 21 requires the vehicle door panel to include a first alignment member formed on one side of the door panel and a second alignment member formed on an opposite side of the door panel with the window regulator housing being aligned relative to the vehicle door panel via the first alignment member and the power mechanism being aligned relative to the door panel via the second alignment member.

Saito does not teach the formation of alignment members on a door panel. The examiner argues that Saito discloses a door panel 5 having a first alignment member 11a on one side and a second alignment member 8a on an opposite side where a window regulator housing 8 is aligned relative to the panel 5 with the first alignment member 11a and a power mechanism 7 is aligned relative to the panel 5 with the second alignment member 8.

The examiner’s first 11a and second 8 alignment members are clearly not formed as part of the door panel 5. The window regulator 6 includes three (3) weld bolts 11a-11c that are formed as part of the base 8 of the window regulator 6. The motor 7 includes a housing 14 with three mounting bores 14e that correspond in position to the weld bolts 11a-11c. Thus, Saito teaches forming alignment members on the components themselves for aligning the components relative to the door panel. This is very different than the configuration set forth in claim 21 where the alignment members are formed on the door panel.

Further, the examiner argues that the particular claimed method steps are inherently taught by the assembly method disclosed in Saito. Applicant respectfully disagrees. One of the benefits of applicant’s claimed invention is that the window regulator housing and the power

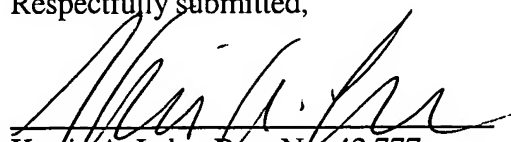
mechanism are aligned relative to the door panel by using the first and second alignment members formed on the door panel, which facilitates assembly. For example, the power mechanism can be assembled onto the door panel without having to hold the window regulator housing in place relative to the power mechanism.

Saito teaches away from such an assembly method. In order for the window regulator housing 8 and motor 7 to be aligned and secured to the door panel 5, both components must simultaneously be held in place relative to the door panel 5. This allows the weld bolts 11a-11c to be inserted through the door panel 5 and into the bores 14e in the motor housing 14 to provide proper alignment between the motor 7 and window regulator 6. Thus, Saito does not inherently teach applicant's claimed assembly steps.

Claims 24-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito in view of Ross. For the reasons set forth above, Saito does not disclose, suggest, or teach the features of claim 21, from which claims 24-28 ultimately depend. Ross does not make up for the deficiencies of Saito.

Applicant asserts that all claims are in condition for allowance. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for two (2) additional dependent claims. It is believed that no additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,


Kerie A. Laba, Reg. No. 42,777
Carlson, Gaskey & Olds
400 W. Maple Road, Ste. 350
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 988-8360

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